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Six new species of the *Platypalpus pallidiventris-cursitans* group (Diptera: Hybotidae) from the Caucasus

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Abstract

Six new species of the genus *Platypalpus* are described from the Caucasus: *P. abagoensis* sp. nov. (Russia: Republic of Adygea), *P. arzanovi* sp. nov. (Russia: Krasnodarskiy Territory, Rostov Prov.), *P. gazaryani* sp. nov. (Russia: Republic of Adygea), *P. kamyshanovensis* sp. nov. (Russia: Krasnodarskiy Territory), *P. odintsovi* sp. nov. (Russia: Krasnodarskiy Territory), *P. neberdzaensis* sp. nov. (Russia: Krasnodarskiy Territory).

Key words: Diptera, Hybotidae, *Platypalpus*, new species, Palaearctic, Caucasus, Russia

Introduction

Platypalpus Macquart, 1827 is the largest genus of the family Hybotidae and currently includes about 550 known species worldwide (Yang *et al.* 2007). In the Palaearctic, in contrast to other zoogeographical Realms (except Nearctic), *Platypalpus* is very common and diverse. However, only the European fauna of this genus, including Mediterranean and some adjacent territories, has been extensively studied (Collin 1961; Chvála 1975, 1989; Grootaert & Chvála 1992; Merz & Chvála 1998; Grootaert 1995a, b, 2008; Grootaert & Stark 1997). The Caucasus occupies a large area between the Black and Caspian seas showing great diversity of natural landscapes varying from high mountains to steppe biotopes. *Platypalpus* is yet very poorly known from the Caucasus and only 20 species were previously known (Shamshev & Kustov 2006; Grootaert, Kustov *et al.* 2012; Grootaert, Shamshev *et al.* 2012).

Platypalpus includes very small to large species with body size varying from about 1.0 to 5.0 mm and it is recognised by the following combination of characters: eyes separated in both sexes, bare; postpronotal lobe well differentiated; scutum usually distinctly longer than broad; mid leg raptorial, mid femur thickened and armed with rows of spine-like setae ventrally, mid tibia usually with more or less prominent apical spur; wing with veins A₁ and CuA₂ present (cell cup present).

In this paper we describe six new species of the *Platypalpus pallidiventris-cursitans* group from the Caucasus. This group is defined by a combination of the following characters: 1 or 2 pairs of vertical bristles present; antenna with black stylus; postpronotal lobe well-developed, with long bristle; mesonotum densely grey dusted, katepisternum usually with shining patch, sometimes entirely tomentose; acrostichals distinctly separated from dorsocentrals by bare space; mid femur with distinct posteroventral bristles behind double row of short black spines beneath (Chvála 1989).

lamella, with ordinary setae of different lengths; left cercus longer than right cercus, not extending beyond apex of left epandrial lamella, broader than right cercus but narrowed on about apical fourth, rather broad viewed laterally, with ordinary setae of different lengths. Right epandrial lamella (Fig. 17) drop-like (ventral view), with short numerous setae over lower margin and tuft of several moderately long setae subapically; right surstylus rather large, digitiform, rounded apically, with some ordinary setae longer on lower margin. Left epandrial lamella (Fig. 19) subtriangular, evenly narrowed toward apex, with numerous long pale yellow setae over lower margin and some shorter and sparser setae on upper margin subapically.

Female. Resembling male; tarsomeres 1–4 slightly darkened apically, fore tibia slender; tergite 7 entirely densely pollinose; cercus long, slender, with short pale hairs.

Etymology. This species is named after Stanislav Odintsov (Krasnodar, Russia) who assisted during trip where the new species was collected.

Distribution. PALAEARCTIC: Russia (Krasnodarskiy Territory). Known only from submontane forest.

Remarks. The new species resembles *P. cursitans* (Fabricius, 1775) differing from the latter by entirely brownish black postpedicel (with narrowly yellowish base in *P. cursitans*); by only last tarsomere of all tarsi brown (tarsomeres annulated in *P. cursitans*) and bicoloured abdomen, which has black tergites and yellowish sternites (abdomen uniformly black in *P. cursitans*).

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